

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 NIC-01

EA-11 ACDA-19 AID-20 RSR-01 /174 W

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R 251724Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, BE, YO

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ON CRITICISM OF MALTA VISIT AND  
SOCIALISTS' EAST EUROPEAN LINKS

REF: VALLETTA 1504. BRUSSELS 4120 AND A-052 (ALL NOTAL)

1. BEFORE LEAVING JULY 21 FOR BRIEF VISITS TO MALTA AND THENCE

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SKOPLJE, YUGOSLAVIA, PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON RESPONDED TO

PERSISTENT PRESS CRITICISM ABOUT "STRANGE FOREIGN POLICY" (SEE COMMENTS BELOW) OF BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSB) WITH NON-SEQUITUR THAT HIS VISIT TO MALTA WAS "PRIVATE" AND THAT HE HAD "NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY POLITICAL POSITIONS" IN TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF. IN YUGOSLAVIA, HE SAID HE WOULD ATTEND CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTHQUAKE AT SKOPLJE, A CITY TWINNED WITH WAREMME, BELGIUM, OF WHICH LEBURTON NOTED HE WAS MAYOR. "THESE ARE SUFFICIENT REASONS FOR VISITS WITH FRIENDS I HAVE DOWN THERE," LEBURTON SAID, ADDING, "I ASK YOU: CAN ONE PRIME MINISTER NO LONGER BE INVITED BY ANOTHER?"

2. COMMENT: LA LIBRE BELGIQUE HAD INCORRECTLY REPORTED THAT LEBURTON'S MALTA VISIT WAS OFFICIAL AND PLACED VISIT IN SAME CATEGORY AS VISITS THAT PSB CO-PRESIDENTS (NOW VAN EYNDE AND COOLS) HAVE EXCHANGED SINCE 1972 WITH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS IN USSR, POLAND, EAST GERMANY AND, MOST RECENTLY, BULGARIA (SEPTEL). LEBURTON HIMSELF BEGAN THOSE VISITS WITH THAT TO USSR WHEN HE WAS STILL PSB CO-PRESIDENT. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN "COMMUNIQUE" RESULTING FROM SUCH VISITS HAVE SOMETIMES VARIED FROM THOSE OF GOB, AND NON-SOCIALIST PAPERS HAVE SHARPLY QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF PSB'S FAILURE TO SUPPORT POLICIES OF ITS OWN GOVERNMENT AND, NOW, ITS OWN PRIME MINISTER. PSB OFFICIALS, SUCH AS COOLS, HAVE MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT GOB POSITIONS ARE NOT THOSE OF PSB, AND THEY SHOW NO SIGNS OF CHANGING COURSE. THIS WAS MOST APPARENT IN JUNE WHEN PSB CO-PRESIDENTS CARRIED MATTER ONE STEP FURTHER BY RECEIVING NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS WHO WERE IN BELGIUM UNKNOWN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CONTRARY TO MINISTRY'S WISHES. SO FAR, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE HAS NOT REACTED ALTHOUGH, AS REPORTED, BRUSSELS 3358 HE WAS APPARENTLY ADVISED BY SUBORDINATES THAT QUESTION OF PSB ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AT POLITICAL LEVEL.  
BOOCHEVER

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